

Nontechnical soil descriptions describe soil properties or management considerations specific to a soil map unit or group of map units. These descriptions are written in terminology that nontechnical users of soil survey information can understand.

Nontechnical soil descriptions are a powerful tool for creating reports. These high quality, easy to read reports can be generated by conservation planners and others for distribution to land users. Soil map unit descriptions and the map unit interpretation database are the basis for these descriptions.

Map Symbol	Description
BA	BARBARY ASSOCIATION

This soil is unsuited for cropland or pastureland.

This soil is level and very poorly drained. It is a very fluid mineral soil in swamps. This soil is ponded and flooded most of the time. Typically, the soil has a muck surface layer and a gray, very fluid clay underlying material. This soil has low strength. The total subsidence potential is medium. If the soil is drained, it can have a very high shrink-swell potential.

Soils in this group are very wet, mineral and organic. The water table is at or above the surface most of the time. They have a moderate potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe. This is due primarily to excess water. The nature of these soils will dictate that silvicultural operations be limited to extremely dry weather periods, if at all. More seedlings than the recommended rate should be planted to ensure a stand. These soils are best suited for water tolerant hardwoods and cypress. Site index for green ash and water tupelo is 60.

Cc COMMERCE SILT LOAM

The potential for cropland and pastureland is excellent. Suitable crops are cotton, soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, and truck crops. Pasture plants are tall fescue, and white clover. Traffic pans develop easily, but can be broken by chiseling or deep plowing. Proper row direction is needed to help control erosion. Crop residue management will also help reduce erosion. Most crops respond well to nitrogen fertilizers. Lime and other fertilizers generally are not needed.

This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on alluvial plains. It is loamy throughout and has high fertility. Runoff is slow, and water and air move moderately slowly through the soil. A seasonal high water table is about 1.5 to 4 feet below the surface during December through April. The shrink-swell potential is moderate. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.

These are moderately wet, loamy soils with a very high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations are moderate due primarily to excess water. These soils are best suited for southern hardwoods. Site index for green ash is 80-100, cottonwood 100-120, oaks 90-110, and sweetgum 110.

Map Symbol	Description
Cm	<p>COMMERCE SILTY CLAY LOAM</p> <p>The potential for cropland and pastureland is excellent. Suitable crops are cotton, soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, and truck crops. Pasture plants are tall fescue, and white clover. Traffic pans develop easily, but can be broken by chiseling or deep plowing. Proper row direction is needed to help control erosion. Crop residue management will also help reduce erosion. Most crops respond well to nitrogen fertilizers. Lime and other fertilizers generally are not needed.</p> <p>This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on alluvial plains. It is loamy throughout and has high fertility. Runoff is slow, and water and air move moderately slowly through the soil. A seasonal high water table is about 1.5 to 4 feet below the surface during December through April. The shrink-swell potential is moderate. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.</p> <p>These are moderately wet, loamy soils with a very high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations are moderate due primarily to excess water. These soils are best suited for southern hardwoods. Site index for green ash is 80-100, cottonwood 100-120, oaks 90-110, and sweetgum 110.</p>
FA	<p>FAUSSE ASSOCIATION</p> <p>This soil is unsuited for cropland or pastureland.</p> <p>These level, very poorly drained soils are in low, depressional areas on the alluvial plain. They formed in alluvium and are clayey throughout their profiles. These soils are ponded or flooded most of the time. Water and air move very slowly through the soils. The soils have high fertility. The shrink-swell potential is very high, but the soils seldom dry enough to shrink and crack. Slopes are less than 1 percent.</p> <p>Soils in this group are very wet, mineral and organic. The water table is at or above the surface most of the time. They have a moderate potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe. This is due primarily to excess water. The nature of these soils will dictate that silvicultural operations be limited to extremely dry weather periods, if at all. More seedlings than the recommended rate should be planted to ensure a stand. These soils are best suited for water tolerant hardwoods and cypress.</p>

Map Symbol	Description
	Site index for green ash and water tupelo is 60.
Sa	<p>SHARKEY SILTY CLAY LOAM</p> <p>The potential for cropland and pastureland is good. Suitable crops are soybeans, cotton, corn, grain sorghum, and rice. Suitable pasture plants are common bermudagrass, bahiagrass, ryegrass, tall fescue, and white clover. This soil can be worked only within a narrow range of moisture content. A drainage system is needed. Crop residue management will help reduce soil erosion. Most crops respond well to nitrogen. Lime and other fertilizers generally are not needed.</p> <p>This level or nearly level, poorly drained soil is on flood plains. The surface layer is loamy and the subsoil is clayey. Cracks form during dry periods, and they seal over during wet periods. Natural fertility is high. Runoff is slow. A seasonal high water table is within 2 feet of the soil surface during December to April. Flooding is rare. The soil dries slowly once wetted. The shrink-swell potential is high or very high in the subsoil. Slopes are less than 1 percent.</p> <p>These are wet, clayey soils with a high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe. This is due primarily to excess water. Silvicultural operations should be restricted to dry weather periods. Only tree species adapted to wet clay soils should be planted. Plant more seedlings than the recommended rate on these soils to ensure a stand. Site index for green ash is 80, cottonwood 100, oaks and sweetgum 90.</p>
Sh	<p>SHARKEY CLAY</p> <p>The potential for cropland and pastureland is good. Suitable crops are soybeans, cotton, grain sorghum, and rice. Pasture plants are common bermudagrass, bahiagrass, ryegrass, tall fescue, and white clover. This soil can be worked only within a narrow range of moisture content. A drainage system is needed. Crop residue management will help reduce erosion. Most crops, respond well to nitrogen. Lime and other fertilizers generally are not needed.</p> <p>This nearly level, poorly drained, soil is on broad flats on the alluvial plain. It is clayey throughout. Natural fertility is medium or high. Runoff is slow or very slow. Water and air move very slowly through the soil. The shrink-swell potential is high or very high. A seasonal high water table is within 2 feet of the soil surface during December through April. Flooding is</p>

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	<p>rare, but it can occur during unusually wet periods. Slopes are less than 1 percent.</p> <p>These are wet, clayey soils with a high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe. This is due primarily to excess water. Silvicultural operations should be restricted to dry weather periods. Only tree species adapted to wet clay soils should be planted. Plant more seedlings than the recommended rate on these soils to ensure a stand. Site index for green ash is 80, cottonwood 100, oaks and sweetgum 90.</p>
Sk	<p>SHARKEY CLAY, FREQUENTLY FLOODED</p> <p>The potential for cropland and pastureland is good. Suitable crops are soybeans and cotton. Pasture plants are common bermudagrass, bahiagrass, ryegrass, tall fescue and white clover. Drainage is needed in swales. Land grading and smoothing will improve surface drainage. Crop residue management will help reduce soil erosion. Most crops other than legumes respond well to nitrogen fertilizer.</p> <p>This level, poorly drained or somewhat poorly drained soil is at low elevations on the alluvial plain. It is flooded frequently for very long periods. This soil is clayey throughout or it has a loamy surface layer and a clayey subsoil. Natural fertility is high. Surface runoff is very slow. Water and air move very slowly through the soil. The seasonal high water table is near the soil surface. This soil has a very high shrink-swell potential. Slopes are less than 1 percent.</p> <p>Soils in this group are wet, frequently flooded clayey soils with a moderately high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe due primarily to excess water. These soils are best suited for bottomland hardwood. Silvicultural operations should be restricted to dry weather periods and more seedlings than the recommended rate should be planted to ensure a stand. Site index for green ash is 70, cottonwood 90, oaks and sweetgum is 80.</p>
Tu	<p>TUNICA CLAY</p> <p>The potential for cropland and pastureland is good. Suitable crops are soybeans, cotton, grain sorghum, and rice. Pasture plants are common bermudagrass, bahiagrass, ryegrass, tall fescue, and white clover. This soil can be worked only within a narrow range of moisture content. A drainage system is needed. Crop</p>

Map Symbol	Description
	<p>residue management will help reduce erosion. Most crops, respond well to nitrogen. Lime and other fertilizers generally are not needed.</p> <p>This level, poorly drained, clayey soil is on the flood plain of the Mississippi River. It has a clay surface layer and subsoil and a silty clay loam underlying material. The surface layer is very sticky when wet and has poor tilth. Cracks form in dry periods and seal over in wet periods. Natural fertility is high. This soil is wet for long periods in winter and spring. Flooding is rare, but it can occur during unusually wet periods. The shrink-swell potential is high in the subsoil.</p> <p>These are wet, clayey soils with a high potential for productivity. Equipment limitations and seedling mortality are severe. This is due primarily to excess water. Silvicultural operations should be restricted to dry weather periods. Only tree species adapted to wet clay soils should be planted. Plant more seedlings than the recommended rate on these soils to ensure a stand. Site index for green ash is 80, cottonwood 100, oaks and sweetgum 90.</p>